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A
TRUE COPY

OF THE
ARCH-BISHOP of CANTERBURY'S
SPEECH,

In Jerusalem Chamber, on Thursday,
February 19. 170².

Brethren of the Clergy,



When you brought up your last Address complaining of a Breach of Privilege by the Bishop of Salisbury, we readily received it, and no one of us was more ready to do it than the Bishop himself. We then promised you should have an Answer to it on the next day of our meeting. The Answer was accordingly prepar'd, being founded upon the Acts of the Bishop's Court at Salisbury, and the account given by the Judge of that Court, which Answer you may see enter'd in our Journal.

The late Prolocutor's illness, and an incident that happened that day, were the cause that this Answer was not communicated that day. We hope, when you have read that Answer,

A

you

you will not suffer your selves for the future to be surpris'd into complaints of this Nature, but will stay till you are fully assur'd, that they are well-grounded both in *Fact* and *Right*, say *Right*, as well as *Fact*. For your Assertion, that we are Privileged from all Suits, except for *Breach of the Peace*, was not well considered, since there are matters of a high nature wherein *Privilege* cannot be pleaded. I might add that if I mistake not the sense of the late Act, it suffers the Cause to go on, provided that the person remains unmolested. But of this enough, especially considering that the Person particularly concerned is lately *Dead*.

By his *Death* the *Prolocutor's* Chair becoming void, you may justly expect, I should say something concerning the filling of it. That is a matter, which as the state of our Affairs at present stands, needs much deliberation. I have had many thoughts upon that Subject, and I will freely communicate such of them, as I judge to be proper at this time.

The *Choice* of a *Prolocutor* or *Referendary*, is equally the right and concern of the whole Lower House. Many of our Members (several of which desired earnestly to be dismissed) are now absent in the Country, and divers of them at a great distance from *London*. They are (I believe) gone down for other reasons, so chiefly that they may attend their respective *Cures* in this solemn time of *Lent*, and bestow a considerable part of it in *Catechising*, and preparing Persons for the blessed *Sacrament* at *Easter*.

It will not, I think, be fair to exclude them from a share in a New Election: and to send for them up, when they are so well employed, merely for the choice of a *Prolocutor*, with other necessary business here, will be a hardship to them, and

advice to their Cures. No Synodical Business is yet, by Royal Authority, laid before the Convocation. If there were, yet the *Formulary* be better settled, the Business would, at evening, be interrupted by Debates about *Methods of Progress*.

During a *Recess*, good Progress may, I hope, be made at matter. Many Materials are already brought together in order to the preparing of a Draught for composing a *Constitutio tenendi Convocationem*. I have communicated one *autentic Book*, which came lately to my hands, and am in hopes of recovering another, together with several Papers, which will be useful to this purpose. And I doubt not but the *Members of both Houses* will contribute their Endeavours towards the same good Work.

For the abovesaid Reasons, as also because a War seems to be breaking out, which will in some measure divert mens thoughts from business of this nature; and there are likewise appearances of a speedy winding up of Publick Affairs; I propose further to *deliberate* about appointing the choice of a Prolocutor, and at present to proceed to a *Prorogation*. But I will do it by such Intervals, during this Session of *Parliament*, as may upon any *emergent occasion* leave room for the choice of a Prolocutor, and the sitting of the Convocation. For those who look upon Me or any of my Suffragans, as designing to bring *Convocations*, and the *Prolocutors* thereof to disuse, or to put any *unreasonable Restraints upon the Lower House*, they are greatly mistaken; and I hope a little time will shew them their Error, and put an end to all such groundless suspicions, as well as allay the Heats which they have occasioned. Such Heats have given great Scandal and Offence, even

even to those who understand not the nature of the
 verbe, but are much concern'd, that there should be
 ferences among Men who are by Profession the
the Gospel of Peace : And I am sorry to find that, in
 which came to my hands last night, mark'd Numb. 1.
 ing a design of the continuance of it, in case the Convoc
 should also continue to sit) a *strange method* is laid for
 Publick Intelligence from time to time of any differences
 might hereafter arise. The Title of it is, " A Faithful Ac
 " of some Transactions in the three last Sessions of the pr
 " Convocation. But, as I am told this morning, it
 speedily be shown in several particulars, how far it is
 answering that Title, especially in the Relation of what
 in a late Committee. When the *Explications*, then direct
sisted on shall be more publicly understood, the partial
 the Writer of this Paper will be no less publick.

I beseech you Brethren to look forward to the thing
 make for peace, and whereby we may edifie one another and
 establish'd Church, of which, by the singular goodness of
 we are Members : That so those Differences, which
 continued too long already, may be speedily and ha
 compos'd : To which end, I heartily commend my self
 You to the God of Peace and Unity, through Jesus Chr
 Lord.

L O N D O N,

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